

**From:** David Perk <davidperk@350seattle.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:07 PM  
**To:** DES SBCC  
**Subject:** 350 Seattle urges support for residential energy code proposals

External Email

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October 6, 2022

Chair Tony Doan  
Washington State Building Code Council  
1500 Jefferson St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Chair Doan and Members of the State Building Code Council:

350 Seattle works toward climate justice by organizing people to make deep system change: resisting fossil fuels; building momentum for healthy alternatives; and fostering resilient, just, and welcoming communities.

It is in that spirit that we strongly urge the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to vote in support of the full package of residential energy code proposals that are currently being considered for public comment.

**We strongly support the requirements for heat pump systems in new homes and stricter ventilation for gas stoves to protect indoor air quality and health.**

In the face of the climate emergency, it is critical that officials at all levels of government pass the policies needed to reduce emissions, protect our communities from further harm, and foster resilience. Buildings are the fastest growing source of carbon emissions in Washington State, because of the use of fossil gas in homes and buildings. **The current package of proposals takes steps to address both the efficiency and the use of fossil fuels in our newest homes, which, once built, will be around for decades.**

By statute, Washington's energy code is required to become increasingly more efficient every revision cycle so that new buildings in 2031 are 70% more efficient than those built in 2006. **Because there are only four code cycles between now and the 2031 code, it is essential that each revision maximizes what can be done to make buildings more efficient and transition away from fossil fuels.**

As we continue to see peak temperatures rise in the northwest, **more and more people will need air conditioning – which heat pumps provide alongside heating** – to cope with heat-related health impacts, or to adequately cool their homes while they are shut inside due to wildfire smoke.

And finally, **stricter ventilation standards are essential**. Natural gas stoves release carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and other harmful pollutants into the air, as so many of us have discovered when using air purifiers during the pandemic.

**We urge the SBCC to vote in favor of the full package of proposed residential code amendments, including heat pump proposals.**

Thank you for moving Washington forward to a cleaner, safer energy future.

David Perk  
350 Seattle